

## REMARKS

### I. Summary of the Office Action

The Examiner has objected to Fig. 1 as not being designated by a legend (such as “Prior Art”) because “only that which is old is illustrated”.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 8-10, 15, 17, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by Younce et al. (IEEE: “Echo Cancellation for Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Liners”, pages 301-306). Further, the Examiner has rejected claims 5, 12 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Younce et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,657 (Betts). Still further, the Examiner has rejected claims 7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Younce et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,307,05 (Sih).

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 4, 6, 11, 13 and 16 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope.

### II. Summary of this Reply

Corrected drawings are herewith submitted which add the legend “Prior Art” to Fig. 1, in response to the Examiner’s objection contained in Paragraph 1 of the Office Action.

Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 8, 13, 16 and 17 are the only independent claims. Claims indicated as being allowable (claims 4, 6, 11, 13 and 16) have been rewritten in independent form and each rewritten claim includes all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In particular, the features of claim 4 and intervening claim 3 have been added to claim 1; claim 6 now contains the features of base claim 1 and intervening claim 5; the features of claim 11 and intervening claim 10 have been added to claim 8; claim 13 now contains the features of base claim 8 and intervening claim 12; and claim 16 now contains the features of base claim 8 and intervening claim 15.

Since these claims have been so rewritten, they are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

In addition, method claim 17, which corresponds to applicants’ original claim 1, has been amended to include the corresponding features found in original claim 4 (i.e., coupling of frame

alignor and first algebraic combing unit) and intervening claim 3 (i.e., frame alignor).

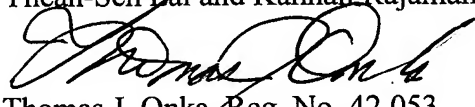
Accordingly, it now contains the allowable subject matter of the original claim 4 and is therefore patentable for the same reasons as amended claim 1.

The other claims currently standing as rejected in this application (i.e., claims 2, 7, 9, 14, 19 and 20) are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant believes claims 1, 2, 6-9, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 to be patentable and the application to be in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests issuance of a Notice of Allowance. If any issues remain, the undersigned requests a telephone interview prior to the issuance of an action.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1 and replaces the original sheet containing Fig. 1. In Fig. 1, the designation “Prior Art” has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet